

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 9, 2005. Claims 1 to 5, 8 to 15, 16 to 20, 23 to 29, 35 and 36 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 16 and 31 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 1 to 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,192,407 (Smith). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns issuing reference information corresponding to held print data to a plurality of printing apparatuses. In one embodiment of the invention, the print data is transmitted to the printing apparatus which first requested the print data based on the reference information. The print data is not transmitted to any additional printing apparatuses which request the print data after the print data was transmitted. Therefore, a printing apparatus in accordance with the present invention which can rapidly start a print process, as it was the apparatus which responded first, can be precisely selected.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes: a holding unit adapted to hold print data; an issuing unit adapted to issue reference information corresponding to the print data held by said holding unit, to a plurality of printing apparatuses; and a transmission control unit adapted to control to transmit the print data to the printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing

apparatuses, which first requested to acquire the print data based on the reference information, and not to transmit the print data to the printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire the print data after the print data was transmitted.

In contrast, Smith discloses a server which stores a document transmitted from a sender. The server generates a private URL for the sender, and transmits the generated private URL to another apparatus. Smith further discloses that the other apparatus accesses the server by using the transmitted private URL to acquire the document transmitted from the sender. However, Smith fails to suggest or disclose the feature of controlling not to transmit the print data to the printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire the print data after the print data was transmitted as in Claim 1.

One of the features of an apparatus in accordance with Smith is that the document is transmitted from the sender to the other apparatus. However, if another apparatus to which the private URL is transmitted from the server makes a subsequent request for the document stored in the server, the server will transmit the document to the other apparatus making the subsequent request. This is because the sender who transmitted the document to the server wishes that the relevant document be transmitted to all apparatuses which request the document using the private URL. Thus, Smith teaches away from the feature of controlling an information processing apparatus so as to not transmit the print data to another printing apparatus, from among a plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire print data after the print data was transmitted as found in Claim 1.

In light of the deficiencies of Smith as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 16 and 31 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 16 and 31 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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